

## ***Interrupting Chicken***

Author and Illustrator: David Ezra Stein

- **Summary:** Little chicken can't stop interrupting her Papa during bedtime story reading. Will she ever fall asleep?
- **Awards received:** 2011 Caldecott Honor Book
- **Reviews:** From *School Library Journal*: PreSchool-Grade 2 In a picture book that is as charming and comic as *Pouch!* (Putnam, 2009), Stein again represents an affectionate parent's trials with a vigorous child. At bedtime, despite a rooster papa's best efforts to share classic fairy tales with his daughter, Little Red Chicken's soft heart means she can't help but jump into each story to warn Hansel and Gretel and then Red Riding Hood about impending danger, and to assure Chicken Little: Don't panic! It was just an acorn. In each case, the story abruptly ends, wearying the father with what to do next. When he convinces his daughter to compose her own story, she fills four pages with preschool-style spelling and drawings about a chicken putting her papa to bed, but her tale is interrupted by Papa's snores. At the end, the pair cuddle together, asleep. Stein's droll cartoons use watercolor, crayon, china marker, pen, and tea. The rich colors of the characters perfectly contrast with the sepia pages of the storybooks. This is one of the rare titles that will entertain both parent and child. *Gay Lynn Van Vleck, Henrico County Library, Glen Allen, VA*
- **Author Information, David Ezra Stein:** <http://www.davidezra.com/>
- **Discussion Questions:**
  - Why do you think chicken kept interrupting his Papa?
  - What else could Papa have done to keep chicken from interrupting him?
  - Have you ever interrupted someone?
  - What are some things you can do to stop yourself from interrupting someone?
  - Why is it important to be polite and not interrupt others?
- **Curricular Activities**
  - Reading/oral language – Read your story to the class! (See Writing Activity)
  - Writing – Write your own story about a chicken that interrupts different events.
  - Math – Count how many times the chicken interrupts Papa in all the stories.
  - Science – Bring in eggs; watch the cycle of an egg hatching into a baby chick.
  - Social Studies – Discuss the history of chickens, give random facts:  
<http://www.ithaca.edu/staff/jhenderson/chooks/chlinks.html>
  - Art – Make your own chicken out of a paper lunch bag.
  - Drama – Act out a play where someone keeps interrupting the story (use art project).
  - Music – Make your own song about interrupting chickens.
  - Technology – Have students play chicken games online:  
<http://www.hotgames14.com/tag/Chicken/1.html>
  - Cooking/food –

- Make chicken cookbook with children's favorite chicken recipes.
- Make chicken shaped cookies, have students decorate them.

- **Related Books:**

- *A Children's Book about Interrupting: Help Me Be Good* by: Joy Berry
- *Do Not Open This Book!* By: Michaela Muntean Illustrator: Pascal Lemaitre
- *My Mouth Is a Volcano* by: Julia Cook Illustrator: Carrie Hartman

- **Other titles by Stein:**

- *Pouch!*
- *Leaves*
- *Monster Hug!*
- *Cowboy Ned & Andy*
- *Ned's New Friend*
- *The Nice Book*

- **Websites for further study or enrichment:**

- Online chicken games: <http://www.hotgames14.com/tag/Chicken/1.html>
- Many children's lessons about chickens – this is a subscription website:
- <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/chicken.shtml>
- Teaching students social skills: <http://www.examiner.com/child-care-in-gainesville/don-t-interrupt-teaching-children-social-skills>
- Chicken Resources on the Web. Primarily nonfiction websites about chickens.
- <http://www.ithaca.edu/staff/jhenderson/chooks/chlinks.html>
- List of Chicken Life Cycle websites:  
[http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Life\\_Cycles/Chicken\\_Life\\_Cycle/index.shtml](http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Life_Cycles/Chicken_Life_Cycle/index.shtml)